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ARTICLES:

(1) Roos named U.S. ambassador to Japan; displayed skills in aiding IT business startups; no diplomatic experience

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Full)
Evening, May 20, 2009

Hiroshi Marutani, Washington

The decisive factor in the selection of the U.S. Obama administration's ambassador to Japan was "economic expertise." Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had wanted to appoint the prominent international relations scholar, Professor Joseph Nye of Harvard University. However, President Barack Obama, whose top priority is economic recovery, gave more importance to an economic background in this ambassadorial appointment.

Google, others among his customers

Ambassador-designate John Roos grew up in San Francisco, California. He went to college and law school at Stanford University.

He is currently the CEO of the major law firm Wilson Sonsini

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Goodrich & Rosati in Silicon Valley, where many IT businesses are located. He has been involved not only with corporate legal affairs and governance, but also with assisting startups and venture capital. He is more like a business consultant. Google and Apple are among his customers, and he has been instrumental for the IT boom behind the scenes.

While he has not been involved with Japan directly, over 50 Japanese companies have contracts with his law firm. He is said to be well-versed in business practices in Japan and the U.S. and other matters.

Obama has appointed Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, who runs a business that has plants in China, as the new ambassador to the PRC. A U.S. government source said that "the basis for appointing the ambassador to Japan was the same."

Meanwhile, since supporting former vice president Walter Mondale in the 1984 U.S. presidential election, Roos has also displayed his talents as a fund raiser for the Democratic Party. One aspect of this appointment is a "reward" for his services.

However, Roos has no experience in public administration and diplomacy. It is uncertain whether he will be able to skillfully steer Japan-U.S. relations - often ruffled by such issues as how to deal with North Korea.

Japanese government surprised by "unexpected appointment"

According to a source connected to Japan-U.S. relations, ambassador-designate John Roos is a well known figure among lawyers dealing in corporate law in California. He has been actively involved with supporting Democratic candidates in previous presidential elections. However, his diplomatic capability is an unknown factor, and the Japanese government is surprised by this appointment. A senior Ministry of Foreign Affairs official says: "He is not on the list of expected appointees." During a news conference on the morning of May 20, Chief Cabinet Secretary Takeo Kawamura said: "We exchange various information with the U.S. government that is not limited to the appointment of the ambassador to Japan. We do not reveal the details of diplomatic exchanges."

(2) U.S. government replies to Shii's letter

AKAHATA (Top Play) (Full)
May 20, 2009

Japan Communist Party (JCP) Chairman Kazuo Shii on May 19 held a press conference in the Diet building to announce that he had received a letter from the U.S. government replying to one that he sent to President Obama in late April. In his letter, he urged President Obama to take the initiative in eliminating all nuclear weapons. The statement that Shii gave at the outset of the press conference is as follows.

Reflects serious stance and eagerness

I sent a letter to U.S. President Obama on April 28, asking for his leadership in abolishing nuclear weapons. As I received a reply to that letter recently, I would like to make it public. The letter was written by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Glyn T. Davies on behalf of the

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President.

I would like to distribute copies of the letter written in English, and the Japanese translation we prepared. I would like to withhold the segment that carries the signature of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Davies in order to protect personal information.

The President made a proposal in Prague for pursuing a nuclear-free world. My letter to the President, written from the perspective of welcoming his proposal, expressed my thinking about how we can work effectively to make the President's proposal come true.

The letter I received in reply expressed appreciation to me for my impression of the President's speech delivered in Prague and for conveying my ideas on how we can best realize a world free of nuclear weapons. The letter praised my letter, noting, "We appreciate your passion for this issue." It ends with the line, "I once again thank you for your thoughtful letter."

The fact that such a letter was officially sent to me indicates that President Obama has a sincere and enthusiastic attitude toward eliminating all nuclear weapons, and I welcome that.

Public opinion and movements will decide trends

I made two requests in my letter: (1) starting international talks on the issue of abolishing nuclear weapons; and (2) nuclear powers unequivocally committing themselves to achieving the complete abolition of their nuclear weapons at the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference. I would like to closely watch how President Obama will make a specific response to those proposals with anticipation.

In this regard, President Obama's sending a message to the preparatory committee for the NPT Review Conference, underscoring his stance of pursuing peace and safety, namely a world free of nuclear weapons, and noting that the U.S. will fulfill an NPT commitment, is a forward-looking step, the first to move away from the stance of the former Bush administration, which rejected making a pledge as a nuclear power. I am carefully watching President Obama's next move.

Only public opinion and movements in the world will decide the fate of the nuclear weapons issue. In the run-up to the NPT Review Conference next year, there is an international signature-collecting drive seeking the immediate start on talks for a treaty to ban and scrap nuclear weapons, which the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs called for last year. It is decisively important that grass-roots opinion and movements aiming to abolish nuclear weapons, starting with that signature-collecting drive, will spread throughout the world, in particular, in Japan, the only country on which nuclear weapons have been used. Our party is determined to do its utmost to achieve that end.

(3) Spot poll on Aso cabinet, political parties, DPJ election

Questions & Answers
(Figures shown in percentage)

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Q: Do you support the Aso cabinet?

Yes 30.0
No 60.4
Other answers (O/A) 1.1
No answer (N/A) 8.5

Q: Which political party do you support now? Pick only one.

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) 28.4
Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ or Minshuto) 30.8
New Komeito (NK) 3.8
Japanese Communist Party (JCP) 2.1
Social Democratic Party (SDP or Shaminto) 1.1
People's New Party (PNP or Kokumin Shinto) ---
Reform Club (RC or Kaikaku Kurabu) ---
New Party Nippon (NPN or Shinto Nippon) 0.1
Other political parties ---
None 30.6
N/A 3.4

Q: Mr. Yukio Hatoyama has been elected as the new DPJ president. Do you have any expectations for DPJ President Hatoyama?

Yes 39.5
No 52.7
N/A 7.8

Q: When comparing Prime Minister Aso and DPJ President Hatoyama, who do you think is more appropriate to be prime minister?

Prime Minister Aso 31.8
DPJ President Hatoyama 41.9
N/A 26.2

Q: What's your impression of the DPJ with its leadership change to Mr. Hatoyama?

Improved 21.8
Worsened 7.5
Unchanged 67.4
N/A 3.4

Q: DPJ President Hatoyama says there's no need to discuss raising the consumption tax for at least four years. Do you appreciate this?

Yes 40.8
No 47.2
N/A 12.1

Q: Do you think the DPJ will be able to take the reins of government in the next election for the House of Representatives?

Yes 30.9
No 55.1
N/A 13.9

Q: Which one, DPJ President Hatoyama or Mr. Katsuya Okada, did you think was appropriate to become the DPJ's new leader?

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DPJ President Hatoyama 28.4
Katsuya Okada 53.5

N/A 18.1

Q: Former DPJ President Ichiro Ozawa has resigned from his party post to take responsibility for his state-funded secretary's indictment for allegedly receiving illicit donations. Do you think his resignation was necessary?

Yes 76.0
No 20.2
N/A 3.8

Q: Do you think former DPJ President Ozawa will continue to have a strong influence within the DPJ?

Yes 80.7
No 13.2
N/A 6.1

Q: Do you think the House of Representatives should be dissolved for a general election right away, or do you think there's no need to hurry?

Right away 36.9
No need to hurry 54.0
N/A 9.1

Q: If an election were to be held now for the House of Representatives, which political party would you like to vote for in your proportional representation bloc?

LDP 27.4
DPJ 40.9
NK 3.8
JCP 2.4
SDP 1.2
PNP 0.4
RC ---
NPN 0.2
Other political parties ---
Undecided 18.1
N/A 5.6

Q: What form of government would you like to see after the next election for the House of Representatives?

LDP-led coalition government 16.0
DPJ-led coalition government 23.5
LDP-DPJ grand coalition government 23.9
Government under new framework after political realignment 31.5
O/A ---
N/A 5.1

Polling methodology: The survey was conducted from the evening of May 16 through May 17 across the nation on a computer-aided random digit dialing (RDD) basis. Households with one or more eligible voters totaled 1,736. Valid answers were obtained from 1,059 persons (61.0 PERCENT).

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(Note) In some cases, the total percentage does not add up to 100 PERCENT due to rounding.

(4) Spot poll on Aso cabinet, political parties, DPJ's Ozawa

ASAHI (Page 2) (Full)
May 18, 2009

Questions & Answers
(Figures shown in percentage, rounded off. Bracketed figures denote proportions to all respondents. Figures in parentheses denote the results of the last survey conducted April 18-19.)

Q: Do you support the Aso cabinet?

Yes 27 (26)
No 56 (57)

Q: Why? (One reason only. Left column for those marking "yes" on previous question, and right for those marking "no.")

The prime minister is Mr. Aso 14(4) 7(4)
It's an LDP-led cabinet 40(11) 24(14)
Political aspects 28(7) 53(30)
Cabinet lineup 10(3) 12(7)

Q: Which political party do you support now?

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) 25 (25)
Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ or Minshuto) 26 (21)
New Komeito (NK) 4 (4)
Japanese Communist Party (JCP) 3 (2)
Social Democratic Party (SDP or Shaminto) 1 (1)
People's New Party (PNP or Kokumin Shinto) 0 (0)
Reform Club (RC or Kaikaku Kurabu) 0 (0)
New Party Nippon (NPN or Shinto Nippon) 0 (0)
Other political parties 0 (0)
None 33 (40)
No answer (N/A) + don't know (D/K) 8 (7)

Q: If you were to vote now in a general election for the House of Representatives, which political party would you vote for in your proportional representation bloc?

LDP 25 (27)
DPJ 38 (32)
NK 5 (4)
JCP 3 (3)
SDP 2 (2)
PNP 0 (0)
RC 0 (0)
NPN 0 (0)
Other political parties 1 (1)
N/A+D/K 26 (31)

Q: Would you like the current LDP-led coalition government to continue, or would you otherwise like it to be replaced with a DPJ-led coalition government?

LDP-led coalition 28 (29)
DPJ-led coalition 45 (41)

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Q: What do you think about Prime Minister Aso's job performance?

Beyond expectations 3
Up to expectations 17
Short of expectations 26
No expectations from the start 50

Q: Do you have expectations for Prime Minister Aso's economic stimulus measures?

Yes 31
No 64

Q: DPJ President Ozawa has resigned from his party post. Do you think it was good?

Yes 68
No 17

Q: Mr. Ozawa took the position that his decision to resign as DPJ president is for his party's unity, saying he has nothing to be ashamed of. Is this account for his resignation convincing?

Yes 14
No 78

Q: Mr. Yukio Hatoyama has become the DPJ's new president. Do you have expectations for the DPJ led by him?

Yes 47

No 43

Q: The DPJ president has now changed from Mr. Ozawa to Mr. Hatoyama. What's your impression of the DPJ now?

Better than before 16

Worse than before 6

Unchanged 75

Q: Who do you think is more appropriate for prime minister, Prime Minister Aso or DPJ President Hatoyama?

Mr. Aso 29

Mr. Hatoyama 40

Polling methodology: The survey was conducted from the evening of May 16 through the evening of May 17 over the telephone on a computer-aided random digit dialing (RDD) basis. Respondents were chosen from among the nation's voting population on a three-stage random-sampling basis. Households with one or more eligible voters totaled 1,897. Valid answers were obtained from 1,123 persons (59 PERCENT).

(5) Poll on Aso cabinet, political parties

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Full)

May 18, 2009

Questions & Answers

(Figures shown in percentage. Parentheses denote findings from the

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last survey conducted in March.)

Q: Do you support the Aso cabinet?

Yes 30 (32)

No 62 (59)

Can't say (C/S) + don't know (D/K) 8 (9)

Q: Which political party do you support or like?

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) 33 (36)

Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ or Minshuto) 38 (28)

New Komeito (NK) 4 (3)

Japanese Communist Party (JCP) 3 (4)

Social Democratic Party (SDP or Shaminto) 1 (2)

People's New Party (PNP or Kokumin Shinto) 0 (0)

Reform Club (RC or Kaikaku Kurabu) 0 (0)

New Party Nippon (NPN or Shinto Nippon) 0 (0)

Other political parties 0 (1)

None 16 (19)

C/S+D/K 4 (7)

(Note) The total percentage does not become 100 PERCENT in some cases due to rounding.

Polling methodology: The survey was taken by Nikkei Research Inc. by telephone on a random digit dialing (RDD) basis. For the survey, samples were chosen from among men and women aged 20 and over across the nation. A total of 1,395 households with one or more eligible voters were sampled, and answers were obtained from 880 persons (63.1 PERCENT).

(6) Poll on Aso cabinet, political parties

MAINICHI (Page 4) (Full)

May 18, 2009

Questions & Answers

(T = total; P = previous; M = male; F = female)

Q: Do you support the Aso cabinet?

T P M F
Yes 24 (27) 26 22
No 58 (52) 58 58
Not interested 18 (20) 16 20

Q: (Only for those who answered "yes" to the above question) Why?

T P M F
Because the prime minister is from the Liberal Democratic Party 35
(34) 35 35
Because something can be expected of the prime minister's leadership
8 (10) 7 9
Because there's something familiar about the prime minister 21 (22)
23 19
Because something can be expected of the prime minister's policy
measures 29 (30) 32 26

Q: (Only for those who answered "no" to the above question) Why?

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T P M F
Because the prime minister is from the Liberal Democratic Party 9
(8) 12 5
Because nothing can be expected of the prime minister's leadership
26 (28) 21 32
Because there's something imprudent about the prime minister 19 (21)
19 18
Because nothing can be expected of the prime minister's policy
measures 45 (42) 45 45

Q: Which political party do you support?

T P M F
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) 23 (27) 27 19
Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ or Minshuto) 30 (24) 36 24
New Komeito (NK) 3 (6) 2 3
Japanese Communist Party (JCP) 3 (3) 3 4
Social Democratic Party (SDP or Shaminto) 1 (1) 1 1
People's New Party (PNP or Kokumin Shinto) 0 (0) 0 --
Reform Club (RC or Kaikaku Kurabu) -- (0) -- --
New Party Nippon (NPN or Shinto Nippon) 0 (0) 0 --
Other political parties 2 (2) 1 3
None 37 (36) 29 45

Q: The DPJ has now elected Yukio Hatoyama as its new leader. Do you have expectations for him?

T P M F
Yes 49 52 46
No 49 47 51

Q: DPJ President Ozawa has resigned from his party post, and Mr. Hatoyama has now become the DPJ's new leader. What's your rating of the DPJ?

T P M F
Up 17 18 17
Down 13 16 10
Unchanged 68 65 71

Q: Who do you think is more appropriate for prime minister, Prime Minister Aso or DPJ President Hatoyama?

T P M F
Prime Minister Aso 21 25 17
DPJ President Hatoyama 34 36 31

Q: The House of Representatives' current membership is due to end in September. Do you think the House of Representatives should be dissolved for a general election at an early date?

T P M F
Yes 48 51 46
No 49 47 50

Q: Which party, the LDP or the DPJ, would you like to see win in the next election for the House of Representatives?

T P M F
LDP 29 (34) 30 27
DPJ 56 (45) 61 51
Other political parties 11 (17) 6 16

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(Note) Figures shown in percentage, rounded off. "0" indicates that the figure was below 0.5 PERCENT. "--" denotes that no respondents answered. "No answer" omitted. Figures in parentheses denote the results of the last survey conducted May 12-13.

Polling methodology: The survey was conducted May 16-17 over the telephone across the nation on a computer-aided random digit sampling (RDS) basis. A total of 1,607 households with one or more eligible voters were sampled. Answers were obtained from 1,003 persons (63 PERCENT).

(7) Which will voters choose, Aso or Hatoyama? Key lies in to what extent Hatoyama can control bureaucracy and how Aso can eliminate discord in policymaking

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Full)
May 20, 2009

Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) President Yukio Hatoyama appointed Ichiro Ozawa, Naoto Kan, and Azuma Koshiishi as deputy presidents and Katsuya Okada as secretary general in his new leadership. Such aides as Hirofumi Hirano, Sakihito Ozawa, and Yorihiisa Matsuno will support the leadership.

Critics point out a lack of unity in the DPJ, but the new party leader managed at least ostensibly to establish an all-party setup, backed by awareness of the need to seal off internal discord in the run-up to the next House of Representatives election in addition to the personality of Hatoyama, who has few enemies.

Hatoyama said in a joint plenary meeting of party members of both Houses of the Diet yesterday: "I am determined to score a victory in the Lower House election and make efforts to jointly build a new Japan with you." The question is what vision he has about a DPJ government that will build a new Japan.

When Ozawa was president, secretary general Hatoyama conducted a study on the details of a DPJ administration. Because Ozawa was taking the stance of giving priority to winning elections, the study was not conducted officially. Even so, the study group has already decided to: (1) Include more than 100 politicians in the cabinet; and (2) abolish department meetings of the Policy Research Council and make policies in the cabinet.

When these policies were adopted, discussants envisioned an Ozawa administration. The task of implementing these policy measures has been shifted to Hatoyama himself.

Hatoyama has repeatedly said: "We will bring about a form of politics that puts people first, to replace the Liberal Democratic Party's politics that focus on the bureaucracy." The guidelines worked out for an administration of the Ozawa-led DPJ also called for smashing bureaucrat-led politics and creating politician-led politics. The party plans to shortly launch a regime transition team on the premise of the party winning the Lower House election.

The DPJ was cynically dubbed as "a think-tank political party" because many members are well-versed in policy matters but cannot make proper judgments on the political situation. The party is preparing for a leadership struggle with the bureaucracy in Kasumigaseki (the government office area), the largest think tank in

Japan. Hatoyama is not an aggressive type of politician and has never been placed in any cabinet post. Attention is being paid to what extent this leader can control bureaucrats.

The LDP has long assumed political power. It has maintained the policymaking process in which the party examines bureaucrat-drafted bills and then enacts them without any change after checking and approving them.

This system, though, has not functioned properly in recent times. In some cases, senior LDP members oppose a policy set forth by Prime Minister Taro Aso. There are also many cases in which discords over a certain policies comes to surface.

Aso leads a faction with only 20 members. Given this, his political ground is weak. It is not easy for him to control cabinet members or even ruling party members.

He can rely only on these three aides: Former finance minister Shoichi Nakagawa, State Minister in Charge of Administrative Reform Akira Amari, and Election Strategy Council Vice Chairman Yoshihide Suga. The group of the four lawmakers, including Aso, is called "NASA." A number of decisions have been made under the framework of NASA since the Aso administration was launched last September.

NASA is expected to take the lead in mapping out a strategy for the Lower House election. A cause of concern is that out of the three, only Suga holds an important post.

(8) Interview with Yasunori Sone, professor at Keio University, about prospects and tasks for Hatoyama-led DPJ: Party is required to present consistent policy goal

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Full)
May 20, 2009

-- The Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) will start preparations for the next House of Representatives election. What do you think the party should give priority to?

The DPJ has proposed measures to provide farmers with income subsidies and to support child-rearing parents. But Hatoyama has not presented any consistent policy goal. Even if the DPJ stresses the need to avoid wasteful spending, it has not explained what it considers to be wasteful.

-- In the Lower House election campaign, economic policies are expected to take center stage.

The economic policies worked out so far are intended for those applicable for peacetime. Since the outbreak of the ongoing financial crisis last year, a manifesto designed to deal with a crisis has become necessary. Calls for fiscal disbursements are growing across the world, but there are wise and silly ways of spending. It is necessary to show a wise, effective way of spending.

-- Where do you think will be different between a Hatoyama policy manifesto and Ozawa's?

Mr. Ozawa took such (irresponsible) views as: "It would be enough to present three policies;" and "if the party presents this policy

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measure, we will be able to get votes." But Mr. Hatoyama is expected to address policies more seriously.

-- Hatoyama, though, seems to have no intention to significantly change the party's conventional policies.

Even if the same materials are used, if the order of priorities is changed, the taste will change; the question is whether the new

president starts with a hors d'oeuvre or a main dish. The party head's character must be reflected in its policy stance.

-- Hatoyama has set forth "fellowship" as his political principle and reportedly intends to put the slogan on the cover of the policy manifesto.

I think this principle stems from the French Revolution's slogan: "Freedom, equality, and fellowship." Its details, though, have yet to be discussed. Like former prime minister Shinzo Abe's concept of "a beautiful country, Japan," it sounds nice, but if asked about its contents, Hatoyama probably will be embarrassed. That is why I expect the media to continue to ask him about what policy he intends to take to turn the slogan "fellowship" into action, so that specifics will be included in the party's policy manifesto.

(9) "Seiron" column: "Concerns about the DPJ's foreign and security policies"

SANKEI (Page 7) (Full)
May 20, 2009

Satoshi Morimoto, professor at Takushoku University Graduate School

Qualitative change in U.S. status and role

The Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) has just come under the leadership of Yukio Hatoyama, and according to opinion polls, it is already more popular than the ruling camp. This has great significance for domestic politics when one thinks about the general election fast approaching. I hope that this will represent an opportunity to introduce a breath of fresh air into politics.

I was unimpressed, though, by the DPJ's debate on foreign and security policy issues during the presidential campaign. For sure, it is understandable that the party paid more attention to avoiding giving the impression of internal divisions, since this was an election to pick a president who would lead the fight in the general election in light of Ichiro Ozawa's resignation. Yet, is it right that the president of the main opposition party, who may possibly become the next prime minister, is elected without spelling out a clear vision on the basic national policies on foreign affairs and security? What is his thinking about the Japan-U.S. alliance and how he would deal with China and Russia, for example?

The world is in turmoil today. Many countries are struggling to extricate themselves from the financial crisis. The upheavals in the Middle East and South Asia are serious, and there is a possibility that terrorists groups may acquire and use nuclear weapons. North Korea's is developing nuclear arms and missiles, and depending on how the United States responds, it will probably go ahead with another nuclear test. China and Russia are each engaged in an unbridled military buildup. There has been a qualitative change in the United States' status and role. President Barack Obama has

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proposed nuclear disarmament, but how to reconcile nuclear deterrence with disarmament will be a tough task. Nuclear proliferation, pirates, a new strain of influenza - all these are difficult high-risk problems.

Specific policies based on national interest

In domestic politics, the Diet is in a serious state of impasse due to the ruling and opposition camps each controlling a chamber of the Diet. It has become difficult to enact crucial legislation, while politicians and even bureaucrats busy themselves with maneuvering among the parties. Even though there is global turbulence, Japanese politics continues to move on without the public's involvement.

The Japanese people's involvement was absent from the recent DPJ president election. It is impossible to see where Hatoyama's DPJ is taking this country. The freeze on proposals for constitutional revision will be lifted in May 2010. The DPJ's position on constitutional revision is also unclear. The only thing that is more or less known is that Hatoyama is positive about constitutional

revision, while Katsuya Okada is negative.

The DPJ's manifesto and policy index talk about such things as "establishing an independent diplomacy," "a true alliance with relations with the U.S. on an equal footing," "U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) realignment without the people's involvement," "revision of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement," and "developing an independent foreign policy toward North Korea." Yet, the overall picture of foreign policy cannot be discerned from these. The DPJ has opposed in Diet deliberations the extension of the Special Anti-Terrorism Measures Law, the deployment of the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) for anti-piracy operations in waters off Somalia, budget allocations for the relocation of U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam, HNS (host nation support), and the construction of the Futenma (replacement) facility.

If the DPJ takes over the reins of power, will it withdraw the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) from the Indian Ocean and Somalia? Or will it shelve what it has been saying in the Diet once it is in power?

Hatoyama, who has been criticized by some as "Ozawa's puppet," should spell out the impact of each policy stance on the credibility of the Japan-U.S. alliance and the damage such would inflict on Japan's national interest.

So far, Ozawa has been the guiding hand in the DPJ's policies. Ozawa is now deputy president under Hatoyama, but in reality, he will continue to have control in the DPJ.

China once reacted strongly to Ozawa's statements on nuclear weapons. He opposed both the SDF's dispatch to Iraq and the MSDF's mission in the Indian Ocean on grounds that they violate the constitution, but claims that participation in the ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) in Afghanistan is constitutional because this is based on UN Security Council (resolutions). He has made remarks to the effect that, "If Japan plays its role in global strategy with the United States and takes up more responsibilities born by the USFJ, it will not be necessary to station active troops in Japan." "The Seventh Fleet will be sufficient for the United States' presence in the Far East."

Questionable ability to govern

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Among the U.S. forces stationed in Japan, the Army and the Navy are support forces, while the Marines and the Air Force are combat troops. However, the Seventh Fleet is a combined force engaged in maritime operations and is not part of the USFJ.

The Seventh Fleet operates across the West Pacific and is not in waters near Japan all the time. However, it cannot conduct its activities without support from the U.S. Navy and Marines in Japan. The Seventh Fleet is inseparable from the USFJ. An extension of Ozawa's thinking will be either withdrawing USFJ combat troops and stationing only contingency units or Japan's rearmament to take on the functions the USFJ is currently responsible for.

The proposal to station only contingency units underestimates the deterrence the USFJ represents, so this move would only please China and North Korea. On the other hand, if the U.S. forces are withdrawn and Japan is to replace them, it will have to rearm. This will be unacceptable not only to other Asian countries, but also to the U.S. The Japan-U.S. alliance will be endangered. Most Japanese would not favor either of these options.

One cannot afford any risks in security policy. Anything that would result in a major rift in the Japan-U.S. alliance would be detrimental to Japan's security. Hatoyama's DPJ should lay out for the Japanese people what its foreign and security policies are, in the event it takes over the administration. The people can then judge whether the DPJ is truly capable to govern on this basis. The party should not forget that this is being watched not only by Japan's ally, but also by the international community.

(10) DPJ elated with "best" new leadership; Can Hatoyama demonstrate

his policy imprint? Some factors could destroy harmony

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Abridged)
May 20, 2009

Yoichi Takeuchi

The new lineup of the leadership of the major opposition Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) was approved in a general meeting yesterday of DPJ Diet members from both chambers. Given the public's favorable reaction to the election of Yukio Hatoyama as party president, the DPJ is visibly exited. But in reality, only the party's facade has been refurbished. If Hatoyama tries to demonstrate his policy imprint with the next House of Representatives election in mind, schisms and turmoil might occur in the party.

After the new lineup was approved at yesterday's general meeting, Secretary General Katsuya Okada jokingly said: "Besides the president, there are three heavyweight deputy presidents. I wonder if I can support them."

The new leadership was approved by the DPJ lawmakers with huge applause. The meeting ended in just 10 minutes without any objections. It made a stark contrast to the May 12 general meeting that became tangled over when to carry out the presidential election. Coming out of the hall, all DPJ lawmakers described the new leadership lineup as the best ever.

At an executive board meeting that followed, Hatoyama expressed his eagerness to display leadership, saying, "I will devote myself to

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playing the role of a conductor who can turn your tunes into a well-balanced harmony."

At the same time, the supreme leadership composed of three deputy presidents -- Ichiro Ozawa, Naoto Kan, and Azuma Koshiishi - plus Okada contains some factors that could destroy harmony.

Under the new system, Ozawa will be basically responsible for practical affairs for the next Lower House election. At a Rengo (Japanese Trade Union Confederation) meeting yesterday, Okada emphatically said, "In order to support the president and the deputy presidents, information-sharing is essential." There are already concerns in the party that Hatoyama might be caught between Ozawa, who has held a tight grip on information and funds, and Okada.

Work to formulate a manifesto for the next Lower House election is not free from destabilizing factors, either. The DPJ produced its manifesto last fall. The party is now trying to review the manifesto based on the economic situation thereafter. It will not be easy to incorporate in the manifesto anything distinct from Hatoyama's goal of building a "fraternal society" and Okada's slogan "no policy without funding."

What approach the party is going to take toward Diet deliberations is another question. Under Ozawa, there were scenes in which the DPJ did not hesitate to use strategies that were criticized by the ruling bloc as boycotting or dragging out deliberations. Hatoyama declared: "We will not use the strategy of disagreeing for the sake of disagreeing. We will play the game fairly and squarely through debate." What do DPJ lawmakers think of Hatoyama's approach, which is somewhat softer than that of his predecessor, Ozawa? Attention will be focused on what the DPJ does in the Upper House Budget Committee deliberations that start today.

(Corrected copy): Senior U.S. official agrees to consider President's visit to Hiroshima in response to Shizuka Kamei's request, calling it "very interesting"

Jiji Com
10:44, May 14, 2009

Washington, Jiji Press, May 13

Shizuka Kamei, deputy leader of the People's New Party (PNP), held a

meeting with Gary Samore, coordinator for nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction of the National Security Council (NSC), at the White House on May 13. He requested a visit by President Barack Obama, who advocates a nuclear-free world, to the atomic bombing site in Hiroshima when he visits Japan. Samore responded with: "This is a very interesting proposal. We will consider it."

Kamei stressed that, "I greatly appreciate President Obama's advocacy of a nuclear-free world. If the President makes his pledge for efforts toward denuclearization before the monument at the atomic bombing site as a representative of mankind, his appeal will carry even more weight." He also pointed out that the impact will be even greater if the President makes a speech at the peace memorial ceremony held on August 6.

On relations with North Korea, Kamei asked that, "If the U.S. and North Korea talk directly, the U.S. should not impose the results on Japan ex post facto, but should hold close consultations with Japan

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simultaneously." Kamei also met principal deputy assistant of state Glyn Davies and Democratic Congressman Sander Levin on the same day.

ZUMWALT